

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALIEN - - - - - EDITOR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1915.

Kings will be tyrants from policy when subjects are rebels from principle.—Edmund Burke.

WHAT ABOUT THE METER SYSTEM?

Investigation of the condition of the water meters installed but a comparatively short time ago and of the results in collected revenues proves that it's up to the city either to straighten out the meter system or to abolish it.

Some of the instruments themselves show corrosion and wear of parts to a remarkable extent after a few months' service. The Star-Bulletin has been shown meters in use eight or nine months which are plainly unfit for registering the flow of water. Whether it is due to lack of care or to some corroding element in the artesian—and to a certain extent the surface—water of Honolulu we leave it to the engineers to say. They already differ considerably in what they are saying about the meter system. The fact remains that it isn't working properly.

The Star-Bulletin is informed that the same meters show such remarkable fluctuations in registry as to prove offhand that they are working wrongly or not working at all. The city engineer is busy on a report and when it is presented to the supervisors they will have to do some thorough probing. Consumers are not going to pay out good money on the figures of a mechanical system which the city engineer declares is grossly faulty and which any layman can see includes meters unfit for operation.

Former Superintendent of Public Works Campbell says that the cry that the meter system will not work is "all bunk." He asserts that "price and not quality ruled" in the purchase of a number of the meters now in use, which is at least partly responsible for their failure to work. He says also that more frequent inspection and care is necessary.

If it is a fact that the territory bought inferior water-meters, that fact should be ascertained. If lack of inspection and change of parts is ruining the meters, that fact and the cause of it should be ascertained.

The new board of supervisors should see to it that the water-consumers get the truth without delay. Part of that truth will be a statement as to whether the alleged saving of money in the waterworks and sewers division has been accomplished at the expense of service. It is reported that the engineer has not had sufficient men inspecting and checking up on meters. If that is so, the faults in the instruments may be not all or even mostly of the mechanical kind.

CREDIT DUE THE JAPANESE.

"The Japanese in their conduct of the siege of Tsingtau and generally after it was captured observed the rules of civilized war and treated their prisoners kindly."

This statement, made by a German from Tsingtau passing through Honolulu, is not unusual. Repeatedly there has come from the "war-zone" in the Orient testimony to the excellent conduct of Japanese officers and troops in the campaign against Tsingtau and in their treatment of the German and Austrian prisoners taken there. Furthermore, the naval operations of the Japanese against the Marshall and Caroline islands and other German Pacific possessions are said to have been marked by the same careful observance of the rules of war and of the dictates of humanity.

In the foreign as well as the American press one notices now and then a statement indicating a belief that Japan obtruded herself into the great conflict and that her entry was regarded with some doubt by Great Britain. We have seen no documentary evidence to back this up. Indeed, not long ago the press carried brief despatches apparently originating in London that Japan's participation was first decided when Great Britain asked her Oriental ally what she could do to protect British commerce in Far Eastern and Pacific waters from German destroyers.

Japan's uncertain intentions with regard to the German Pacific possessions have also occasioned much comment, some of it unfavorable.

On the other hand, Mr. Arthur Bullard, the well-known war correspondent and special writer for The Outlook, inclines to a favorable view. After criticising what he terms British haste to establish a protectorate over Egypt and thus get new territory, he says:

"Although allowances should be made for Great Britain's 'peculiar situation,' it will be generally felt that the Japanese have shown a more scrupulous regard to the amenities of nations in postponing the announcement of their intention in regard to their conquests in the Pacific until the matter can be discussed by her allies at the termination of the war."

THE RAVAGES OF WAR IN THE SUGAR-BEET FIELDS.

That the sugar-beet fields in France are ravaged by war is indicated in Associated Press despatches from the front, telling of the fighting across what was formerly rich agricultural country.

The sugar-beet fields retaken by the French have not only been ravaged by shells, lacerated by trench diggers and furrowed by the wheels of gun carriages, but have been so trampled by infantry and cavalry that the extraction of the roots became a difficult problem, not yet entirely solved. It is the modest heroine of the war, the French peasant woman, who is working on it in the unoccupied regions close to the battlefield where she can not only hear it but see the smoke of it.

In all this region the plough followed closely upon the conflict and seeding necessarily followed so hard upon the plough that some apprehension was felt as to the summary preparation of the soil; there was no time for harrowing, but the seed caught and the new crop showed its head even while the pointed helmets across the line were taking in the last of the belated harvest.

Statisticians say the seeding is little inferior in acreage to that of 1913.

L. M. Whitehouse gave satisfaction as a city engineer during his previous term; John H. Wise ought to make good as superintendent of Kapiolani Park; but R. W. Aylett as head of the garbage department looks like a mighty poor choice on the part of Mayor Lane if Lane's going to make a record for efficiency. Of course the appointment is made for political reasons—couldn't be for any other reason. Aylett has served in the legislature, on the board of supervisors and as a member of the band, but the act for which he will be longest remembered as a public servant was that of going blissfully to sleep at his post as night-watchman at the Capitol. No one knows how long he had been doing it before Superintendent of Public Works Caldwell found him in calm repose one night and separated him from his job. As head of the garbage department "Bill" can slumber without fear of rude awakening.

Petrograd and Vienna exchange amenities. Petrograd says the Germans and Austrians try to get inside the barbed-wire lines by pretending surrender. Vienna declares that the Russians dress in Austrian uniforms. What has become of the rules of "civilized war"? Are they also "scraps of paper"?

General Kitchener is credited with remarking that the war will start next May. Most of us have somehow gotten the impression that what has been happening to Europe is war.

"Seeing Oahu" trips by the supervisors are well worth while when they result in definite plans for road improvement.

Roumania appears to be on war's invitation list, R. S. V. P., but hesitating a little about acceptance.

They call it a "theater of war" but to us it looks more like a pendulum.

We notice that the "submerged tenth" is doing most of the naval fighting.

You can lead a meter to water, but can you make it work?

Letters of TIMELY TOPICS

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space for anonymous communications.)

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE METERS?

Honolulu, Jan. 12.

Sir:—The following facts in connection with the water meter controversy may be of some interest to your many readers.

Of 235 meters examined, 230 registered less than \$1.50 for three months from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1914, 5 registered over \$1.50 and of the 230 registered less than \$1.50, 46 registered nothing at all.

In one case \$23.45 was collected during the quarter ending June 31, but the same meter registered just 55 cents for the following quarter ending Sept. 30, 1914.

There is a certain variability in the pressure of water in the pipes, which adds to the unreliability of the meters, as a meter rated for 80 lbs pressure per square inch will not register correctly for 40 lbs., 60 lbs. or 100 lbs. pressure per square inch.

It appears that a renewal of the train wheels in the meters will be required at least every three months, at a cost of about \$3 per meter, and that might not insure accuracy, as a meter might be working all right today and next week it might fail utterly.

Yours for full publicity.

COMMUNI BONUM.

Personal Mention

MRS. H. M. BALLOU was among the passengers returning to Honolulu in the Matson steamer Lurline.

BYRON K. BAIRD, representing the federal customs at the port of Hilo, is in the city on official business.

Z. K. MYERS, who has spent some days on Hawaii on insurance business, returned in the steamer Mauna Kea this morning.

J. G. ROTHWELL, who has been attending to business matters for the Honolulu Iron Works at Hilo, was a passenger in the steamer Mauna Kea.

A. J. KNIGHT, postoffice inspector for the district of Hawaii, has gone to San Francisco on account of ill health. It is not known when he will return to Honolulu.

M. F. PROSSER is back from a legal business trip to Hawaii. He was numbered with the passengers to reach the city this morning in the steamer Mauna Kea.

J. E. SHEEDY, superintendent for the Inter-Island, has completed a business and inspection tour to the island of Hawaii. He returned to this city in the steamer Mauna Kea.

WILL P. THOMAS of the Thomas Pineapple Company leaves for New York on the Matsonia tomorrow to attend the National Canniers' convention to be held in that city the last of this month.

R. G. NOGGLE of Pathé's Weekly is in recent arrival in Honolulu from the mainland. He will remain in the city during the Carnival to secure motion pictures of the various events of the celebration.

C. L. YOUNG and Mrs. Young, a bridal couple from Lovelock, Nevada, are visitors to the islands, arriving in the steamer Lurline this morning. They will tour Hawaii and view the Kilauea volcano before returning to the mainland.

JACINTHO G. SILVA and Jules P. Rego of B. F. Ehlers & Co. will leave in the steamer Siberia for San Francisco next Thursday on a purchasing trip for their firm. They will travel as far east as New York and will visit the leading American cities.

E. R. SMITH of the postoffice department in Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Smith arrived in Honolulu this morning in the steamer Lurline. They will sail in the next transport for Guam, where Mr. Smith will assume the position of postoffice inspector for that district.

DR. J. M. WESTGATE, who has been appointed special agent in charge of the Hawaii experiment station, vice Dr. E. V. Wilcox, who was transferred back to the United States department of agriculture at Washington, is expected to arrive on the army transport Sherman tomorrow. He has been on the editorial staff of the Experiment Station Record for a number of years.

FUKUYU GETS CONTRACT FOR EPIPHANY MISSION

Y. Fukuya has been awarded the contract to build the new Epiphany Mission house in Kaimuki. It was announced today, and work will be begun at once. Fukuya's bid of \$4639 was found to be the lowest of those submitted last Saturday in the office

of Ripley & Davis, architects.

Bishop Restarick has called a meeting of the board of directors of the church to sign the contract. This meeting will be held within the next three days.

Another proposed improvement announced by the church is the erection of a 20-foot front on the guild hall for the use of the Sunday school. Work on this also will be begun in the next few days.

Fukuya's contract calls for completion of the new mission house in 100 working days, so that it is expected to be ready for occupancy between May 15 and June 1 at the latest.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—EMIL A. BARNETT: The Carnival decorations committee wants the support of every resident of Honolulu in its work. We have got to "dress up" this city for the celebration.

—A. P. TAYLOR: The Hawaiian building is so situated at the exposition that it is going to be seen and visited by practically every person attending the fair. The arrangement of the building and the exterior decorations alone will attract visitors.

—WALTER COOMBS: An interesting proposition has been submitted to the Republican county committee. It is that in case there are several applicants for the committee's endorsement for a city job, these applicants shall be given a sort of tryout to see which is the most efficient. Thus, if there are three or four after a road supervisorship, the committee might arrange to have them given a half-hour test by local engineers. The plan strikes me rather favorably. Whether it is feasible or not remains to be seen.

CARTER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HISTORICAL BODY

George R. Carter was elected president of the Hawaiian Historical Society at the annual meeting of that organization in the Library of Hawaii last night. The other officers chosen were as follows:

C. H. Hitchcock, first vice-president; N. B. Emerson, second vice-president; H. M. Ballou, third vice-president; Bruce Cartwright, Jr., treasurer; Edgar Wood, recording secretary; W. D. Westervelt, corresponding secretary; Miss Edna I. Allyn, librarian. A. F. Judd, A. W. Carter and Bishop Henry Bond Restarick were elected additional members of the board of managers. A. Lewis, Jr., was appointed trustee, Library of Hawaii. Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Library—W. D. Westervelt, C. Montague Cooke, Jr., Bishop H. B. Restarick, Bruce Cartwright, Jr., and Reginald Yzendoorn.

Printing—H. M. Ballou, W. D. Westervelt, William A. Bryan, J. F. G. Stokes and J. S. Emerson.

Membership—Dr. N. B. Emerson, A. Gartley, Miss M. A. Burbank, B. L. Marx and Bruce Cartwright, Jr.

Genealogy—Bruce Cartwright, Jr., Gerrit P. Wilder and Edgar Henriques.

A paper on "A Sketch of the Constitutional History of Hawaii" was read by W. R. Castle. Judge Sanford B. Dole read a paper on the subject "Thirty Days of Hawaiian History," which dealt with the accession of King Lunalilo. Judge F. M. Hatch addressed the meeting on the subject "The Constitutional Convention of 1894."

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FOR SALE

In Puuhui—House and lot in good location, with all improvements. House just recently erected.

Desirable home on Wilder Ave., in Makiki district, close to Oahu College. May be bought on easy terms.

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AUTOS FOR NAVAL STATION CUT OUT

The Pearl Harbor naval station is not going to get a seven-passenger touring car and a passenger-carrying truck for yard use just at present. The house committee on naval affairs balked at the \$3,100 asked for these

two motor cars, and failed to grasp the necessity of transportation between Pearl Harbor and Honolulu, some of the members showing a very vague knowledge of local geography.

Don Valentine Harwood of New York, a playwright, reported to the police the robbery of jewels valued at \$65,000 from his trunk.

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2568 Rooke St., Puuhui 5 bedrooms..... 75.00
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770 Kinau St..... 3 bedrooms.....\$22.50
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328 Kinau St..... 3 bedrooms..... 35.00
1877 Kalakaua Ave..... 3 bedrooms..... 20.00
1915 Kalakaua Ave..... 3 bedrooms..... 30.00
1417 Beretania St..... 2 bedrooms..... 30.00
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Manoa Valley..... 2 bedrooms..... 40.00
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2 cottages, Adams Lane, City..... 3 bedrooms..... 35.00

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SAM-UPA, FOR YEARS IN PUBLIC OFFICE, IS DEAD

Death, following an operation for appendicitis several days ago, came at 6 o'clock last evening to Samuel Upa, for many years a clerk in the attorney-general's office. He passed away at his home, 1509 Chung Hoon lane. The funeral was held this afternoon from M. E. Silva's undertaking parlor and burial was at the Catholic cemetery on King street.

Upa was born at Hilo, Hawaii, 45 years ago. He and a sister, Tempa Upa, owned considerable property in that city. He leaves a widow and several children.

Sam Upa was one of the best-liked men in the territorial government service. He was a quiet, unobtrusive and

kindly, cheerful man, highly efficient in his office, and one of the public servants who will be sorely missed. He knew more concerning the routine business of the attorney-general's office than any other person.

A soldier who saw fighting in German Guinea declared that the Germans secured the aid of the natives by telling them that the English intended to